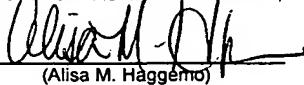


I hereby certify that this paper (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as Express Mail, Airbill No. EV 664574578 US, on the date shown below in an envelope addressed to: MS Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Dated: September 29, 2006 Signature: 
(Alisa M. Haggemo)

Docket No.: 60680-2121
(PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:
Stefan Sommer et al.

Application No.: National Phase of PCT/EP05/003475 Confirmation No.: N/A

Filed: Concurrently Herewith Art Unit: N/A

For: A BIPOLAR PLATE AND ITS USE, AS WELL
AS A METHOD FOR ITS MANUFACTURE
AND AN ELECTROCHEMICAL SYSTEM
CONTAINING THE BIPOLAR PLATE

FIRST PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

MS Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

Prior to examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified U.S. patent application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 3 of this paper.